production of gold and silver during 1987-88 has been 1873 Kgs. and 38,833 Kgs. respectively.

Request from Andhra Pradesh for Assistance to Improve Dainage System in that State

3830. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has recently approached the Central Government for financial assistance amounting to Rs. 50 crores for the repairs and improvements of drainage system in that State which were damaged by heavy rains

(b) whether the request of the State Government has since been examined by the Central Government and if so, with what result; and

(c) by when the assistance is likely to be provided to the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The request of the State Government is under consideration.

3831. [*Transferred to the 1st September*, 1988]

World Bank Loan for Industrial Training Institutes

3832. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have requested the World Bank for a special loan for strengthening and upgrading the Industrial Training Institutes in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) A project proposal for strengthening and upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes is presently under consideration for possible World Bank group assistance. The amount of such assistance, and details of project components and coverage are at present indeterminate since these would depend on the availability of Bank group assistance, and the status of project processing and preparation.

Amendment of Arms Act

3833. SHRI KAMAL MORAKA : Will the Minister or HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Arms Act to exempt muzzle loading guns from registration; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Presently no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Rubber Plantation Programme in Orissa

3834. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh steps to encourage rubber plantation in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the districts in the state covered under the rubber plantation programmes at present ?